



30 September, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Update

There are not many schools where everyone participates in an annual Cross Country run and we are always delighted to see the enthusiasm of all our year groups in participating in this annual Borlase tradition. As always, everyone was running in Higginson's Park for their house and we were impressed with the efforts of all. There were some excellent elite runners of course who completed the course in record time. You will hear all about them with photos in the Borlase Review.

This has been a very busy week as ever. Alongside their academic learning, students across the year groups have been involved in wider activities. The MFL Bake Off was a particular highlight. Mr Simpson and I thoroughly enjoyed our roles tasting the incredible cakes, meringues and puddings that were entered. Congratulations to Mrs Colville and her team and all the student chefs who brought their language-inspired cakes to the competition. The whole-school House Music competition has also been launched this week, with students and staff invited to enter solo and ensemble items to earn points for their house. This year, each house will also undertake a performance of an Elton John song. We will send you further updates over the next few months as the competition progresses.

On Thursday evening we were treated to a highly original evening in the theatre which was entirely student-led. Freya Rogers and Toby Casemore in our Year 13 are both applying to study fashion at university. They led the design and management of the Borlase Fashion Show as part of their Production Arts course; they both created their own collections which were modelled very professionally by Borlase students. The Production Arts Course at Borlase develops genuine independent learning and leadership and this was a great example of this - thank you too to all the students who led the Front of House and Tech Team.

Year 11 were taken to see An Inspector Calls by the English Department to support them in their GCSE preparations; live theatre is excellent to reinforce the learning of a play and we are grateful to the department for the many evenings they dedicate to creating these opportunities.

We also welcomed BucksMIND leaders into school this week to train our Year 12 peer mentors who offer a layer of support to other young people at school. Thank you to all those Year 12 leaders.

In advance, our Charities Captains, Emma Edwards and James Howell are organising a Mufti Day for the last Friday of this half term to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month - they will send out a separate letter.

Once again, this has been a busy week for Sports Fixtures. Congratulations to everyone - win or lose - on their representation of the school.

- U18 girls indoor hockey v MHC 1s W 5-0
- U18 girls hockey v GMS W 3-2
- U14A girls hockey v GMS L 1-2
- U14A boys hockey v Kingston Grammar L 0-5
- U13A boys hockey v Merchant Taylors' D 2-2
- U13B boys hockey v Merchant Taylors' W 2-0
- U13C boys hockey v Merchant Taylors' D 4-4
- U13D boys hockey v Merchant Taylors' D 1-1
- U16 girls hockey v Stowe W 3-0
- U19 netball County Tournament - 5th
- U16 netball County Tournament - County Champions, qualified for Regional Finals
- U16 netball v GMS W 13-9
- U16 netball v Pipers Corner W 12-4
- U14 netball County Tournament - 5th
- U13A netball v WHS B W
- U13B netball v WHS A L 2-18
- U13C netball v GMS B L
- U13C netball v SWR A W 8-3
- U12A netball league seeding tournament - 1st in group, A league
- U12B netball league seeding tournament - 4th in group, A league
- U14 Rugby v Claire's Court W 25-5
- U13A Rugby v Claire's Court L 5-55
- U12A Rugby v Claire's Court L 25-30
- U18 boys Football v John Hampden L 0-2
- U15 Girls Football v Burnham Grammar W 10-0

Transport to School

There are a few points to note on general standards and safety which I would like to pass on to you.

The temporary traffic lights in Marlow are creating significant traffic delays and congestion in peak times; this is now a known challenge so please ensure you set off in good time if you are driving your child to school.

Also, if you live in the Stokenchurch, Radnage, B482 corridor , Mr Simpson has sent you a separate letter about a potential bus service. Please can you respond to this as soon as possible for us to be able to take positive action.

If your child cycles to school, please remind them to wear a helmet. The health and safety benefits of wearing a helmet are indisputable; we expect all Borlasians to wear one if they wish to cycle to school.

Attendance

As you know, as a school we are aligned with the Department of Education in believing that excellent attendance is vital to the educational progress and mental wellbeing of our students. We expect high attendance from our students and we monitor student attendance at a whole cohort level as well as individuals. We are very conscious of the impact being out of school had on young people and It is time to bring children into school as they were in pre COVID times. We recognise that on occasions, individuals

have challenges with attendance and we work with families to support them in this situation. We have an attendance policy which is on the school website which clarifies processes, roles and responsibilities.

As parents it is your responsibility to :

- Ensure your child attends school regularly and is punctual
- Notify the school by 8.00am on the first and subsequent days of unplanned absence via the school attendance officer: Absence@swbgs.com or sixthformabsence@swbgs.com or call 01628 816545
- Request permission in advance for planned absence using the Request for absence form on the school website (such as driving test, music exams, university open day)
- For last minute planned absence such as medical appointments, notify the school attendance officer as above by email by 8.00am on the day of the appointment.

Please note we are not allowed to authorise family holidays during term time. If you need any help with attendance please do contact the attendance officer as above.

Parent Support

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the survey sent out by Mr Simpson this week. Do please contact the school if you would like to share your views. We are also organising Parent Workshops across the year and we welcome parent input.

Thank you too to all the parents who attended the Friends of Borlase meeting this week. Your support is invaluable and the parent social community is so important to the ethos of our school.

We are also looking for support on our Board of Governors. These are not “parent governor” roles but they can be parents or non-parents. Our Safeguarding Governor who is a Safeguarding lead at another school needs to take a sabbatical period out so we are looking for someone who has school experience in this area or who has knowledge of SEND learning or PSHE. If you have experience in this field or if you know of anyone who you know who could help and would like to be considered for a Governor Role, please contact cwoodgate@swbgs.com ; we would love to hear from you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to a number of workshops we have for parents in the coming months. Miss Holmes will share the full programme with you. However, I would like to flag up early, our exciting relationship with leading researcher and author on adolescent mental health, Dr Lucy Foulkes. Lucy is delivering a lecture and round table workshop for parents linked to her book - What Mental Health is and What it isn't on November 16th. Do save the date.

Thank you very much everyone for your support,

Have a lovely weekend,

Kay Mountfield
Headteacher